

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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## **ABC Cites Clerks for Selling Alcohol to Minors**

**Rosemead** - Investigators of the California Department Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) conducted a minor decoy operation November 18 in which a minor under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 10 retail licensees in the City of Rosemead. Four clerks were cited for selling alcohol to a minor. The actions were the result of a compliance check operation.

While conducting the operation, Investigators arrested a clerk for possession of 2 electronic gaming devices, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and allowing a patron to consume alcohol in his store. Additionally, Investigators found methamphetamine in the store.

Those who sell to a minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business's liquor license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunk driving fatalities than the general adult population. Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the State since the 1980's. When the program first began, the violation rate of retail establishments selling to minors was as high as 40 to 50 percent. When conducted on a routine basis, the rate has dropped in some cities as low as 10 percent or even below. The latest violation rate state-wide is approximately 16 percent.

In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that liquor licensees are complying with the law.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.